



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, September 15, 2014

10:00 AM

Call to Order. (14-4124)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: Commissioners: Carol O. Biondi, Candace Cooper, Patricia Curry, Sydney Kamlager, Dr. Sunny Kang, Helen Kleinberg, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Liz Seipel, Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Martha Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, and Chair Geneva Berger

Excused: Commissioner Ann E. Franzen and Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of September 15, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-4125)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the September 15, 2014 Meeting Agenda (14-4126)

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kang (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Kamlager, Konigar-Macklin and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of August 18, 2014. (14-4146)

On motion of Commissioner Kang, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, Kamlager, Konigar-Macklin and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [August 18, 2014 Minutes](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for September 15, 2014 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (14-4128)

Chair Berger reported on the following:

- **Welcomed newly appointed Fifth District appointee Commissioner Liz Seipel to the Commission for Children and Families.**
- **The next Transition Team meeting for the Office of Child Protection is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board Hearing Room 381B.**
- **Department of Children and Family Services Strategic Plan Stakeholders Engagement Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Hilton Pasadena. Commissioners interested in attending, should inform staff by September 15, 2014.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted the Chair's report.

5. Department of Children and Family Services Director's report for September 15, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director. (14-4129)

Director Browning reported on the following:

Sex Trafficking

- **The legislature has set aside \$4.5 million in funds for training staff in combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and \$4 million has been released for training this fiscal year. San Diego State University provides the CSEC training for the Department of Children and Families (DCFS). The DCFS and Probation employees including most Social Workers has already trained 4,000 DCFS employees in Los Angeles County. Mental Health and Law Enforcement personnel need training. Rise Group is receiving a Federal grant to deal with a specific case group, the Self-Declared individuals. The issue is what type of training is available for this specific group and their needs. Group home employees are trained, but the challenge is how to train foster care and relative care group.**

Education

- **The goal is to interface with the school system for tracking a child progress in school. Real-time information for prevention will be available with automation.**

Psychotropic Drugs

- The Commission has historically been concerned about the administration and management of psychotropic medications being administered to children placed in-group homes by the DCFS and Probation Department (PD) as it is not clear what oversight exists in determining the proper dispensing of psychotropic medications. Currently, 3,400 children are on some type of psychotropic medications in Los Angeles County. The goal is to incorporate the approved court medication prescription in the children's file. There is no file to record this information in the current State computer system. Mercury News has carried a series of articles on this subject. We could do a match on what drugs were paid for by Medi-Cal.

Katie A. Core Practice Model

- Nine Counties have included the core practice model in their training manual, which has been fully implemented in Los Angeles County. The core practice model now involves the child, parents and collateral parties, such as uncle, aunt and faith leader in the decision making process. In addition, a 3% cost of living would be increase.

Hiring of new social Workers

- It appears DCFS will be very close to meeting the goal of hiring 450 new Children Social Workers (CSW's) by October 2014. This hiring surge of 450 workers is designed to increase the CSW ranks as much as possible, and with the assistance from the County Department of Human Resources and the Chief Executive Office, the anticipation of filling vacancies will take place after October.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted the Chair's report.

III. DISCUSSIONS/APPROVAL

6. Discussion and approval of the Commission's 2015 meeting schedule. (14-4136)

On motion of Commissioner Kang, seconded by Vice Chair Friedman, (Commissioners Cooper, Franzen, and Vice Chair Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [Commission's 2015 Meeting Schedule](#)

7. Presentation of the 2014-15 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers:

Martha Trevino-Powell, Elections Chair (14-4138)

Commissioner Trevino Powell presented the 2014-15 Commission for Children and Families Slate of Officers. The candidate for the position of Chair is as follows:

Susan Friedman

Commissioner Friedman thanked everyone who nominated and supported her nomination and looks forward to achieving some tangible results.

The candidates for the position of Vice Chairs are as follows:

Carol Biondi

Commissioner Biondi indicated she had been on the commission since 1999 and has worked extensively on crossover issues and new leadership in Probation. She is looking forward to improving the quality of life for children.

Sydney Kamlager

Commissioner Kamlager indicated that as a new member, she will present a new perspective to the Commission, and she is excited about having the ability to make a difference in children's lives.

Adelina Sorkin

Commissioner Sorkin indicated that she has served since 1998 and was elected as Chair five years ago. She has recently worked on the Strategic Plan committee and is looking forward to working to improve the quality of life for children, especially for the zero to five populations.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Kang, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, duly carried by the following vote, the Commission approved the 2014-15 Commission for Children and Families Slate of Officers:

Ayes: 12 - Commissioners Carol O. Biondi, Candace Cooper, Patricia Curry, Sydney Kamlager, Dr. Sunny Kang, Helen Kleinberg, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Liz Seipel, Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Martha Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman and Chair Genevra Berger

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Ann E. Franzen and Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq.

Following the count of the ballots, Commissioner Trevino Powell reported that the Commission elected Susan Friedman as Chair, and that Commissioners Carol Biondi, and Sydney Kamlager were elected Vice Chairs of the Commission for the 2014-15 Fiscal Year.

Therefore, on motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, duly carried by the following vote, the Commission approved the 2014-15 Commission for Children and Families Election of Officers:

Ayes: 11 - Commissioners Genevra Berger, Candace Cooper, Patricia Curry, Helen Kleinberg, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Liz Seipel, Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Martha Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi, Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager, and Chair Susan F. Friedman

Excused: 3 - Commissioners Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang and Steven M. Olivas Esq.

8. Discussion and approval to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors urging the Board to accept the State money for relative caregivers. (14-4141)

On motion of Commissioner Konigar-Macklin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, duly carried by the following vote, the Commission approved the letter with changes:

Ayes: 11 - Commissioners Carol O. Biondi, Candace Cooper, Patricia Curry, Sydney Kamlager, Dr. Sunny Kang, Helen Kleinberg, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Liz Seipel, Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman and Chair Geneva Berger

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Ann E. Franzen and Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)

IV. COMMISSIONERS UPDATE

9. Update by Commissioners Sorkin and Kleinberg on the Visitation Workgroup. (14-3474)

Commissioner Kleinberg reported that she had attended two significant events on visitation, one at the court and one among caregivers, and relayed that caregivers feel there is not enough planning; they do not have time or capacity to do all the visits ordered by the courts. Forty-five people (45) recently met with the Court officials on this issue. The second important development has been the issuance of a survey to all regional offices on their family visitation programs. There is a need for more Community Centers. The Visitation Workgroup is now working with Friends of Families, Grace Resource Centers and Shields for Families, but there is a need for more centers. Fesia Davenport has been very helpful to the workgroup, particularly in obtaining a higher quality of training beginning with Health Services Aides (HAAs), which is needed for monitors and coaches. There needs to be more planning for visits, more pre meets with families, and, perhaps, this can be included in the Child Family Team Conferences. The courts want more information on the visits. Judge Nash will be drafting a mandatory requirement for visitation, if necessary.

Commissioner Sorkin added that the Court expressed concerns on visitation information not provided in a timely manner, which hinders that court's decision-making.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Commissioners Sorkin and Kleinberg's report.

- 10. Update by Commissioner Curry on the Transition Team on the Office of Child Protection. (14-3475)**

Commissioner Curry reported that Ms. Drew Ivie provides reports on the Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection (TTOCP) to the Commissioners. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) has created a Matrix based on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection. CEO's recommendation for Item No. 12 - "Comprehensive Prevention System" is to wait for the Director of Office of Child Protection (OCP) to be in place before taking action on the item. The Board of Supervisors has developed their own job description for the Director of Office of Child Protection; and a search firm is in the process of recruiting applicants. The CEO's office has developed a matrix of all of the Blue Ribbon Commission Recommendations. The TTOCP will report to the Board of Supervisors in October on their top priorities for current implementation. Kim Belshé and Susan Botswich will report on possibilities for collaboration on prevention under their current budgets.

Commissioner Curry indicated that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and First 5 LA should jointly move ahead in developing the comprehensive prevention plan to reduce the overall incidence of child abuse and neglect without waiting for the OCP.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Commissioner Curry's report.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 11. Update by Commissioner Sorkin on the distribution of parking funds. (Continued from meeting of 08-18-14) (14-3681)**

Commissioner Sorkin reported that in 2011 Superior Court assumed responsibility for parking funds. During that time, Chief Executive Office and the Board of Supervisors considered that by having the Superior Court assumed responsibility for parking funds would be a worthy cause.

About \$8,000 was carried over with a total balance of \$158,000 available. The funds were used to replace the furniture in the courthouse, purchase art supplies and teddy bears for children.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Commissioner Sorkin's report.

- 12. Update by Commissioner Friedman on the new commercially sexually exploited children. (Continued from meeting of 08-18-14) (14-3692)**

Commissioner Friedman reported that the first responder's protocol was established in Los Angeles County. The protocol is for a social worker to be the first contact for the child within the first 72 hours. The social worker will begin a search for the nearest family member to return the child to, and if none are located, the child will be placed in the Welcome Center, and then to a foster home. Currently, Crittenton Services for Children and Families are accepting commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) youth at this time.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Commissioner Friedman's report.

V. COMMISSION EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT

- 13. Update by Sylvia Drew Ivie, Commission Executive Liaison, on the Commission's activities. (Continued from meeting of 08-18-14) (14-3682)**

Two meetings of significance were held recently:

- National conference on Parent child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) at which Dr. Claude Chemtob, a Psychiatrist from NYU presented. He reported that it was essential to screen the caregivers of abused children of Posttraumatic Stress disorder and for Depression. The probabilities according to his studies show 54% will have PTSD and 61.7% will have Depression). If caregivers are screened and treated at the same time the child is cared for, the rates of repeat maltreatment of the child go down far more dramatically than with PCIT or home visitation alone; and**
- Presentation by Children's Institute International (CII) at the First 5 LA meeting on Trauma Informed Care. Dr. Ross stated that for zero 3 year olds, the wellness of the caregiver was almost more important than the wellness of the child. It is relational. Foster parents must be supported. In care giving generally, it is important to change the frame from "what is wrong with you?" to "what happened to you?" Early childhood**

caregivers are in need of support as their care of traumatized children traumatizes them in turn. The First 5 LA commission said they would change their strategic plan to incorporate some of these recommendations.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Olivas being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Drew Ivie's report.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

- 14.** Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4130)

There were none.

Announcements

- 15.** Announcements for the meeting of September 15, 2014. (14-4131)

There were none.

Public Comment

- 16.** Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4132)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

- 17.** Adjournment of the meeting of September 15, 2014. (14-4133)

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.